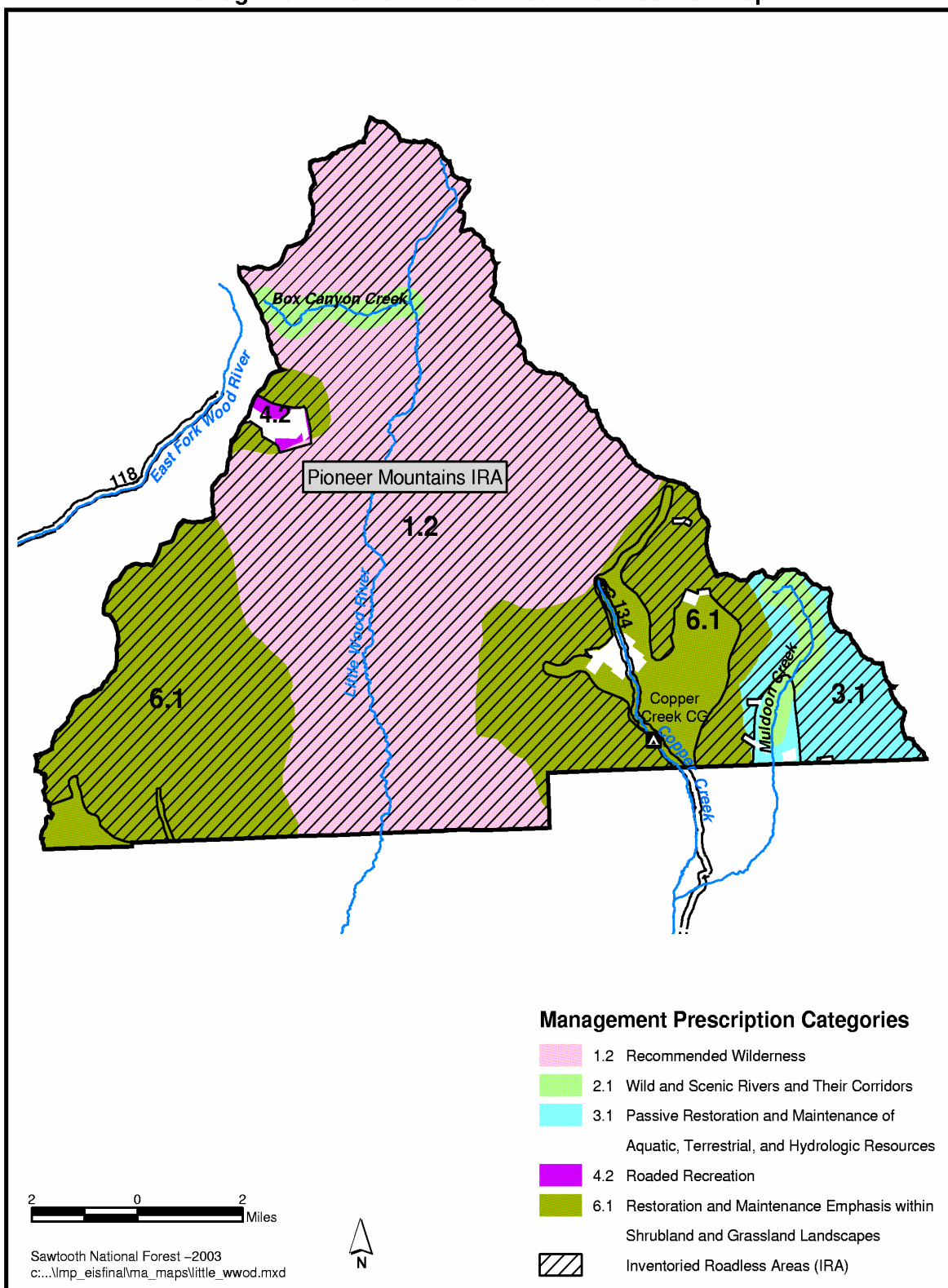


Management Area 05 – Little Wood River Location Map



Management Area 5 Little Wood River

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

Management Prescriptions - Management Area 5 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
1.2 – Recommended Wilderness	57
3.1 – Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	7
4.2 – Roaded Recreation Emphasis	Trace
6.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland & Grassland Landscapes	36

General Location and Description - Management Area 5 is comprised of lands administered by the Sawtooth National Forest within the Little Wood River drainage east of Ketchum and Sun Valley, Idaho (see map, preceding page). This area includes a portion of the Pioneer Mountain Range. Management Area 5 is an estimated 70,300 acres, of which about 875 acres, or around 1 percent, are privately owned. The area lies in Blaine County, and is administered by the Ketchum Ranger District. The area is bordered by the Sawtooth National Forest to the west, the Salmon-Challis National Forest to the north and east, and a mix of BLM, State, and private lands to the south. The primary uses and activities in this management area have been livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, and mining.

Access - The main road access to the area is by Forest Road 134 up the Copper Creek drainage. This road is well maintained and gravel-surfaced to the Garfield Guard Station, and rough and native-surfaced beyond. Other roads lead to trailheads at the edge of the area that provide access to a network of trails within the area. The estimated density of classified roads in the entire management area is 0.3 miles per square mile. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 0 and 1.0 mile per square mile.

Special Features - An estimated 92 percent of the management area is inventoried as roadless, including a portion of the Pioneer Mountains Roadless Area, part of which the Forest has recommended for Wilderness designation. Segments of Muldoon Creek and Box Canyon Creek are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Together, these creeks represent 6.8 stream miles and 2,180 acres of associated corridor to be managed under a Wild classification.

Air Quality - This management area lies within Montana/Idaho Airshed ID-24 and in Blaine County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management. There are no ambient air monitors within the airshed. The Sawtooth Wilderness and the Craters of the Moon National Monument are the closest Class I areas. Visibility monitoring has been expanded for these areas.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends in Blaine County improved for PM 10, while PM 2.5 emissions remained constant. The most common source of particulate matter within the county was fugitive dust. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions, although the amount of agricultural-related burning was low within Blaine County (an estimated 3,500 acres). There were no point sources within the county.

Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources - Elevations range from about 5,700 feet near the Forest boundary to over 11,000 feet in the upper reaches of the Little Wood River drainage. Management Area 5 is predominantly in the Pioneer Mountain subsection, featuring glaciated mountains, fluvial mountains, and depositional lands. Slope gradients range between 45 percent to near vertical in the glaciated and fluvial mountains, and 0 to 35 percent in the depositional lands. Soils generally have moderate to high surface erosion potential, and productivity is typically moderate. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to high (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low, with the majority being low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). Localized areas have impacts from historic mining and livestock grazing.

This management area comprises portions of the Upper Little Wood River and Muldoon Creek Watersheds, which flow into the Little Wood River Subbasin. The Little Wood River flows south and meets the Big Wood River at Gooding before joining the Snake River. The major streams in the area are the Little Wood River, Porcupine Creek, Baugh Creek, Copper Creek, and Muldoon Creek. A number of small alpine lakes occur in the cirque basins in the upper reaches of the Little Wood River. Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). There are localized impacts from livestock grazing, mining, and a few roads and trails. There are currently no impaired water bodies listed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act or TMDL-assigned subwatersheds associated with this MA.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
1	4	3	0	2	6	0	4	4	0	0	0

Wood River sculpin, a Region 4 sensitive species, and redband trout occur throughout the area, and introduced brook trout are also present. Fishing pressure is generally light due to limited access. Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages the Little Wood River as a wild trout fishery. Localized grazing impacts and high natural sedimentation rates have affected fish habitat in some area streams. The high alpine lakes have hatchery-stocked recreational fisheries, with species such as brook trout and rainbow trout. These lakes receive most of their impacts from increasing recreational use. Overall, aquatic habitat is functioning at risk due to sedimentation impacts from livestock grazing and mining, and migration impediments immediately off-Forest. Native fish populations are at risk due to the introduction of non-native fish species and habitat impacts

described above. The Grays-Lane and Upper Little Wood River subwatersheds have been identified as important to maintaining or restoring strong populations of native species, including Region 4 Sensitive Wood River sculpin. These subwatersheds are high-priority areas for passive restoration.

Vegetation - An estimated 58 percent of the management area is non-forested, or covered by grasslands, shrublands, meadows, rock, or water. Much of this area is comprised of the Mountain Big Sagebrush, Montane Shrub, or Alpine and Dry Meadows vegetation groups. The main forested vegetation groups are High Elevation Subalpine Fir (6 percent), Cool Dry Douglas-Fir (20 percent), and Warm Dry Subalpine Fir (11 percent). Aspen is a minor but important component in the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir groups.

The Montane Shrub group is functioning at risk due to fire exclusion and historic grazing and trailing impacts, which have altered structure and species composition. The Mountain Big Sagebrush group is functioning at risk due to livestock grazing impacts and the introduction of non-native species, particularly spotted knapweed and cheatgrass. Alpine and Dry Meadows are functioning at risk because of historic and current grazing impacts, introduced species, and increasing conifer densities.

High Elevation Subalpine Fir is functioning at risk where fire exclusion that has allowed the more shade-tolerant subalpine fir to dominate, to the detriment of the whitebark pine component. The Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir groups are functioning at risk because fire exclusion has resulted in older, more decadent stands with more climax species and less early seral species, particularly aspen. Aspen is present in pure stands and mixed with Douglas-fir; however many stands are dying out or being replaced by encroaching conifers because of fire exclusion. Fire hazard is increasing in conifers stands due to increasing mortality from mistletoe and Douglas-fir tussock moth, and increasing fuel loads.

Riparian vegetation is functioning at risk in localized areas due primarily to grazing impacts and fire exclusion. In some areas, grasses are replacing sedge species due to livestock grazing. Cottonwood and willow communities are becoming old and decadent, and are not regenerating due to fire exclusion. Snag levels are likely at historic levels due to limited access for fuelwood gathering.

Botanical Resources - Bugleg goldenweed is a Region 4 Sensitive species that occurs in this management area. Proposed Sensitive species include nodding saxifrage, wedge-leaf saxifrage, and Mt. Shasta sedge. No federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, but potential habitat exists for Ute ladies'-tresses and slender moonwort. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have moderate potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas from 1,000 to 7,000 feet. Slender moonwort, a Candidate species, may occur in moderate to higher elevation grasslands, meadows, openings in spruce and lodgepole pine, and open rocky outcrops.

Non-native Plants – Non-native plants occur in the management area, particularly along main road and trail corridors. The main weed of concern is spotted knapweed, which is currently found in small, scattered populations. The spread of cheatgrass is also a concern in the area. An

estimated 22 percent of the management area is highly susceptible to invasion and spread of noxious weeds and exotic plants.

The Grays-Lane subwatershed has an inherently high risk of weed establishment and spread. This risk is due to the amount of drainage area that is highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and the relatively high level of exposure from recreation and trail use in this area.

Wildlife Habitat - Sage grouse can be found in low-elevation shrublands. Moose have been introduced in the Copper Creek drainage. Mid-elevation conifer forests provide habitat for a number of Region 4 Sensitive species, including northern goshawk and flammulated owl. High-elevation subalpine forests provide habitat for boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, wolverine, and lynx, as well as summer range for deer, elk, black bear, mountain goat, and mountain lion. Much of the area provides nesting and foraging habitat for migratory land birds, and general habitat for wide-ranging mammals such as elk, bear, and wolves. This area is within the Central Idaho Gray Wolf Recovery Area. Overall, terrestrial habitat is functioning at risk in some areas due primarily to livestock grazing impacts and fire exclusion. However, the level of human disturbance is relatively low, particularly in winter, and little habitat fragmentation has occurred from roads, timber harvest, or fire.

Recreation Resources - The area has one developed campground, Copper Creek, with five units. Dispersed recreation is primarily trail-oriented and includes backpacking, horse packing, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. One outfitter and guide currently operates in the area. Most of the trails in the area are closed to motorized use. Many of the trails were originally pioneered for livestock grazing and mineral access, and they have not been constructed to current Forest standards. Opportunities exist to reconstruct or relocate a number of trail segments in order to reduce impacts to soil and water quality, and to enhance recreational opportunities and safety. The management area lies within a portion of Idaho Fish and Game Management Unit 49.

Cultural Resources - Cultural themes in this area include trapping, mining, and Forest Service Administration. Little prehistoric use is documented. Historic use included trapping and mining, and evidence of trappers' cabins, mills and related mining structures, ditches, placer and mining debris can still be found. The Garfield Guard Station, constructed in 1908, is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Timberland Resources - Of the estimated 22,000 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 6,700 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 5 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 4.2 and 6.1, as shown on the map displaying the MPCs for this management area. Lands within MPC 1.2 and 3.1 are identified as not suited for timber production. Past activities have also been relatively low.

Rangeland Resources - This area contains part or all of eight sheep allotments. An estimated 25,400 acres are considered capable for livestock grazing. This represents about 5 percent of the Forest's capable rangeland.

Mineral Resources - Historic mining activities have occurred, particularly in the Copper Creek, Iron Mine Creek, and Muldoon Creek areas. A number of historic mining sites exist. Current exploration activity is low, and the potential for mineral development is considered low to moderate.

Fire Management - No large wildfires have occurred in the management area in the last 15 years. There are no National Fire Plan communities or wildland-urban interface subwatersheds in this area. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be 90 percent mixed1 or 2, and 10 percent non-lethal. Only 5 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. However, 46 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are moderately departed from their historical range. Wildfire in these areas may result in larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity.

Lands and Special Uses – See the Recreation Resources section for recreational special uses.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In addition to Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines that provide direction for all management areas, the following direction has been developed specifically for this area.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 1.2 Recommended Wilderness	General Standard	0501	Management actions, including wildland fire use and prescribed fire, must be designed and implemented in a manner that maintains wilderness values, as defined in the Wilderness Act.
	General Standard	0502	Within the Pioneer Mountains recommended wilderness, the following are prohibited: a) Having greater than 20 persons in a group. b) Being in the area with a combined number of pack and saddle stock in excess of 25 animals. c) Shortcutting trail switchbacks on foot or with pack and saddle stock. d) Tethering pack and saddle stock within 100 feet of springs, lakes, or streams. e) Tying pack and saddle stock to live trees for periods longer than one hour.
	Recreation Standard	0503	Do not construct new trails within trail-less areas of the Pioneer Mountains recommended wilderness, unless trails are determined necessary to prevent resource damage.
	Vegetation Standard	0504	Mechanical vegetation treatments, including salvage harvest, are prohibited.
	Recreation Standard	0505	No new motorized or mechanical uses will be allowed, except where these uses must be allowed in response to reserved or outstanding rights, statute or treaty.
	Recreation Standard	0506	Existing motorized or mechanical uses are allowed only if they do not lead to long-term adverse changes in wilderness values.
	Road Standard	0507	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 1.2 Recommended Wilderness	Fire Standard	0508	Wildland fire use and prescribed fire must be designed and implemented in a manner that maintains wilderness values, as defined in the Wilderness Act.
	Fire Guideline	0509	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Fire suppression tactics should minimize impacts to wilderness values.
MPC 2.1 Wild and Scenic Rivers	General Standard	0510	Manage the eligible Wild and Scenic River corridors of Muldoon Creek and Box Canyon Creek to their assigned classification standards, and preserve their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status, until the rivers undergo a suitability study and the study finds them suitable for designation by Congress, or releases them from further consideration as Wild and Scenic Rivers.
	Fire Guideline	0511	Prescribed fire and wildland fire use may be used in any river corridor as long as ORVs are maintained within the corridor.
	Fire Guideline	0512	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize the impacts of suppression activities on river classifications and ORVs.
MPC 3.1 Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources	General Standard	0513	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary time period (up to 3 years), and must be designed to avoid resource degradation in the short term (3-15 years) and long term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	0514	Mechanical vegetative treatments, excluding salvage harvest, may only occur where: a) The responsible official determines that wildland fire use or prescribed fire would result in unreasonable risk to public safety and structures, investments, or undesirable resource affects; and b) They maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or c) They maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species.
	Fire Standard	0515	Wildland fire use and prescribed fire may only be used where they: a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species, or b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species.
	Road Standard	0516	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.
	Fire Guideline	0517	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies and tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
MPC 4.2 Roaded Recreation Emphasis	Timberland Standard	0518	Timber harvest shall not be scheduled on suited land with a 4.2 MPC during the planning period. Although harvest may occur if needed, the primary emphasis on these lands is recreation.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 4.2 Roaded Recreation Emphasis	Vegetation Guideline	0519	Vegetation management actions—including wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments—may be used to maintain or restore desired vegetation and fuel conditions provided they do not prevent achievement of recreation resource objectives.
	Fire Guideline	0520	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to recreation developments and investments.
MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes	Vegetation Guideline	0521	The full range of treatment activities may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire use. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	0522	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Guideline	0523	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat; or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources	Objective	0524	Maintain the good fish habitat and upland conditions within the Grays-Lane and Upper Little Wood River to continue their improving trend for these resources.
	Objective	0525	Restore ground cover, improve soil stability, and prevent further soil loss on upland areas by reducing late-season livestock grazing and trailing impacts in the Copper Creek, Buckhorn Creek, Little Wood, and Grays Creek drainages.
	Objective	0526	Restore floodplain function and riparian vegetation, and reduce soil compaction by reducing impacts from existing facilities in the Copper Creek drainage that are seasonally flooded, that affect floodplain function, or that are preventing attainment of riparian and aquatic objectives.
	Objective	0527	Maintain Wood River sculpin habitat where it is functioning properly. Restore sculpin habitat where it has been degraded by livestock grazing, development, or other activities.
	Objective	0528	Complete and implement the Wood River Sculpin Conservation Assessment Agreement.
Vegetation	Objective	0529	Maintain or restore whitebark pine in the High Elevation Subalpine Fir vegetation group to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A.
	Objective	0530	Restore the early seral aspen component to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A, in the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir vegetation groups to improve visual quality and wildlife habitat.
	Objective	0531	Restore species composition and soil-hydrologic function of Dry Meadows and Alpine Meadows vegetation groups within high-elevation cirque basins where these groups have been altered by recreation and domestic livestock use.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Vegetation	Objective	0532	Restore structure and species composition in the Alpine Meadows, Dry Meadows, and Mountain Big Sagebrush vegetation groups in the Little Wood River and Copper Creek drainages where these groups have been altered due to fire exclusion and permitted and recreational livestock grazing.
	Objective	0533	Restore desired riparian shrub and herbaceous plant composition in Porcupine Creek, Copper Creek, and Fisher Creek drainages.
Botanical Resources	Objective	0534	Establish the Muldoon Canyon bog area as a Botanical Special Interest Area or Research Natural Area.
	Objective	0535	Maintain or restore populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS species, including bugleg goldenweed, nodding saxifrage, wedge-leaf saxifrage, and Mt. Shasta sedge, to contribute to their long-term viability of these species.
	Guideline	0536	Coordinate grassland/shrubland restoration, riparian restoration, prescribed fire, and non-native plant eradication efforts with a Forest botanist to minimize impacts to TEPCS plant species, occupied or potential habitat, and pollinators.
Non-native Plants	Objective	0537	Contain the expansion of cheatgrass, particularly on south and southwestern slopes, by maintaining or increasing perennial vegetation.
	Objective	0538	Control or contain spotted knapweed and Canada thistle.
Wildlife Resources	Objective	0539	Provide high quality mountain goat forage by reducing summer and fall forage competition between domestic sheep in the tributaries to the Little Wood River.
	Objective	0540	Coordinate seasonal road closures with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to reduce elk vulnerability and disturbance in the Fisher Creek area.
	Guideline	0541	Management actions in sage grouse habitat should be designed to meet the desired conditions for sagebrush, as described in Appendix A. Where greater than 40 percent of the sage grouse habitat in the management area has less than 10 percent canopy cover, management actions should be designed to maintain or restore canopy cover conditions.
Recreation Resources	Objective	0542	Provide winter habitat security for mountain goats and wolverine in the Pioneer Mountains by reducing disturbance from winter recreation activities.
	Objective	0543	Reconstruct or re-locate system trail segments to improve visitor safety and resource conditions, and to provide the desired trail experience.
	Objective	0544	Install sanitation facilities at highly used recreation sites to reduce resource impacts and improve recreation experiences. Facilities may be portable.
	Objective	0545	Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation associated with off-road vehicles in the Porcupine Creek, Fisher Creek, upper Baugh Creek, and upper Copper Creek areas.
	Objective	0546	Manage permitted outfitter and guide operations and recreational horse use to reduce resource damage associated with camps, grazing, and trails.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description																				
Recreation Resources	Objective	0547	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from recreation and trail use in the Grays-Lane subwatershed. Methods to consider include annual weed inspection and treatment of trailheads and other high-use areas; and posting educational notices in these areas to inform the public of areas that are susceptible to weed invasion and measures they can take to help prevent weed establishment and spread.																				
	Objective	0548	Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy:																				
			<table><tr><th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th><th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area</th></tr><tr><th>Summer</th><th>Winter</th></tr><tr><td>Primitive</td><td>10%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized</td><td>62%</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td><td>10%</td><td>90%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>2%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>16%</td><td>0%</td></tr></table>	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area		Summer	Winter	Primitive	10%	0%	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	62%	10%	Semi-Primitive Motorized	10%	90%	Roaded Natural	2%	0%	Roaded Modified	16%	0%
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Roaded Modified	16%	0%																					
The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning																							
Standard	0549	Restrict or modify winter recreation activities where conflicts exist with mountain goats and/or wolverine.																					
Guideline	0550	Developed and/or dispersed campsites and access routes should be closed, modified or relocated if they develop the following chronic conditions: unacceptable vegetation loss, flooding, soil erosion; or soil compaction; public waste and litter, and crowding that negatively affects other users’ experience.																					
Cultural Resources	Objective	0551	Restore and maintain the Garfield Guard Station, and interpret the site for public education and enjoyment.																				
	Objective	0552	Document and interpret historic mining areas, particularly in the Garfield Canyon area.																				
Timberland Resources	Objective	0553	Designate firewood-gathering areas to reduce loss of snags and large woody debris.																				
Rangeland Resources	Objective	0554	Reduce livestock grazing and recreation use conflicts in the headwaters of the Little Wood River through more intensive livestock management and/or closures.																				
Mineral Resources	Standard	0555	Limit the availability of common variety materials to personal and non-commercial uses.																				
Fire Management	Objective	0556	Identify areas appropriate for Wildland Fire Use, emphasizing the Pioneer Mountains recommended wilderness area. Use wildland fire to restore or maintain desired vegetative conditions and to reduce fuel loadings.																				
	Guideline	0557	Coordinate with adjacent land managers to develop compatible wildland fire suppression strategies and coordinated plans for wildland fire use.																				
Lands and Special Uses	Objective	0558	Acquire scattered parcels of private inholdings to maintain the undeveloped character of the area.																				